

# The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

POST OFFICE BOX 327

HURLOCK, MARYLAND 21643

410-943-4181

FAX 410-943-8556

E-MAIL: townofhurlock@townofhurlock.org

JOYCE A. SPRATT  
MAYOR  
JOHN H. AVERY  
CLERK / TREASURER  
ROBERT MERRIKEN  
ATTORNEY

COUNCIL MEMBERS  
CHARLES T. CEPHAS, SR.  
PARKER J. DURHAM  
BONNIE FRANZ  
EARL H. MURPHY  
JERRY L. RHUE, SR.

## MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING OCTOBER 14, 2014 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Spratt called the meeting of October 14, 2014, to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Hurlock Town Office located at 311 Charles Street. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Councilman Reverend Cephas said the opening prayer. The roll call was then taken. Those in attendance were: Councilmembers Parker Durham, Jerry Rhue, Bonnie Franz, Charles Cephas, Earl Murphy, Mayor Joyce Spratt, and Administrator John Avery. Attorney Robert Merriken was absent.

Councilman Rhue made a Motion to approve the Agenda, with one item, Ordinance 2014-8, added under Old Business. Councilman Murphy seconded the Motion. With no discussion and no one opposed, the Motion to approve the agenda with the addition was passed and carried with a vote of 5-0.

The Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting held on September 22, 2014 were approved. Councilman Durham made a Motion to approve. Councilman Murphy seconded the Motion. With no discussion and no one opposed, the Motion to approve the minutes for the Executive Session Meeting were passed and carried with a vote of 5-0. The minutes of the Open Session Meeting held on September 22, 2014 were approved. Councilman Murphy made a Motion to approve the minutes and Councilman Rhue seconded the Motion. With no discussion and no one opposed, the Motion to approve the minutes was passed and carried with a vote of 5-0.

**County Councilman Rick Price** - County Councilman Rick Price was not in attendance for the County Council Report.

**Agenda Requests** – Ms. Trinity Cephas was asking the Mayor & Council for support in putting together a dance team within the Town of Hurlock. Ms. Cephas explained the concept, which was to help in developing self esteem in youth between the ages of 12 – 18. (Please see attached information). After her presentation, Ms. Cephas received applause from the residents in attendance.

Mayor Spratt stated that she thought it sounded like a great idea. Councilman Cephas spoke how he felt the young ladies were getting lost in a maze. He asked that the Town support this idea 100%. Councilman Cephas spoke about a possible location and stated he would be the first to make a Motion to help fund this project. There was discussion on this topic, along with questions regarding the size of a facility, and how many people were currently involved. Councilmen Murphy suggested approaching the county with this information also.

**Mayor's Report** – Mayor Spratt spoke about the new signs the town had obtained and felt that they are gorgeous and she is very excited about them. She said the Fall Festival was a huge success and it was a perfect day. The Talent Show was very well attended, and there were 755 train tickets sold.

The Mayor stated that the council members had copies of the Treasurer's Report and everything looks good.

The Mayor also announced the Town now has a new auto parts store.

Also in the works is the Coats & Clothes drive. It is going very well and will be handled by Michelle Murphy and Councilwoman Bonnie Franz. They would welcome help sorting the clothing. The drive is on November 1<sup>st</sup> from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

There will be a meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup> with Chesapeake Utilities regarding natural gas. A representative will be here to answer questions anyone might have.

Trick or Treat will be held on October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. for children 12 and under.

The Christmas parade will be held on Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup> and this year a rain date has been set for December 20<sup>th</sup>.

The employee appreciation dinner will be held this year at the American Legion from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on December 20<sup>th</sup>. A band will play after 8 p.m. and will be open to the public for adults only. Mayor Spratt announced she will be doing the cooking for the dinner and it will be a fun time for all.

A home in Prospect Heights burned down 3 weeks ago and everything was lost. People in the Town have pitched in to donate and help. Ms. Marjorie who lived there is now living in an apartment.

Councilman Rhue presented Miss Marjorie with a \$500.00 donation from the Red Knights. The Red Knights also made a donation of \$500.00 to Emma Ross. Councilman Rhue stated that 4 years ago the Red Knights left Ocean City and rode over 1,000 miles on their motorcycles to raise \$10,000.00.

Mayor Spratt expressed her thoughts on how good the people in Hurlock are.

**Department Reports** – Chief of Police Les Hutton stated that within the last 3 weeks, there have been 3 counterfeit incidents in stores. There were 2 thefts, a MDOP, a disorderly conduct, 3 assaults, 2 warrant services, a domestic and a DWI. With a total of 15 cases, one case being the arrest of a juvenile, the police were able to close 8 of them.

David Carrier presented a report from the Hurlock Fire Company. He stated there were 21 medical calls and 22 fire responses, 8 structure fires, 5 automatic fire alarms, 4 mv collisions, 1 standby to cover Federalsburg, 2 hazmat incidents involving leaking gas, 2 landing zones, and one smoke investigation. The fire company has applied for a 50/50 grant for \$32,000.00 to purchase a heart monitor. Four companies to submit bids for a new ladder truck.

Councilman Cephas thanked the fire department for their quick response to the fire in Prospect Heights. He feels that the Hurlock Fire Company is very professional.

**Old Business** – Chief of Police Les Hutton spoke about the groundbreaking for the new police station held on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Administrator John Avery read Ordinance 2014-8, Section 1 that would authorize the Mayor to execute any and all documents to sell certain real property located at 300 S. Main Street in Hurlock to the Hurlock Fire Department for \$1.00. This is just an introduction of the Ordinance. At the next meeting the first voting of the Ordinance will be held and the following meeting the second vote of the Ordinance will take place. The Ordinance would go into effect 20 days following the second vote. Councilman Cephas introduced Ordinance 2014-8.

Councilman Cephas informed the Mayor that also under Old Business which was regarding the property at 202 S. Main Street in Hurlock. Councilman Cephas made a Motion that the property located at 202 S. Main Street, Hurlock or Town owned property on Charles Street be considered for use as a location for the Memorial Park. There was considerable discussion regarding this subject. Administrator Avery asked that everyone keep in mind the properties have not transferred yet. Councilman Cephas asked if the Chief and Administrator Avery do a small feasibility study, then discuss the Motion at a future meeting.

#### **New Business - None**

**Council members Comments** – Councilman Cephas thanked the Mayor for being proactive in the community to resolve a tragedy. Councilman Cephas also spoke about the killings going on in other black communities and the young black men are killing each other. He stressed that all police are not the same; there are good and bad and Hurlock was lucky to have good officers. He also acknowledged that there is a lot of good happening in the Town of Hurlock.

Councilman Murphy asked Administrator Avery about sink holes around storm water basins. Mr. Avery responded they are aware of the situation and they are being repaired as needed. Councilman Murphy announced that on Halloween, there will be marshmallows and hot dogs at the Murphy house from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Councilman Rhue stated he was glad he could take part in the police department groundbreaking.

Councilman Cephas asked David Carrier if plans are in place to deal with Ebola, if necessary. Mr. Carrier responded that the fire company is prepared to deal with the situation, if called for.

**Public Comment** – Mr. Monroe Quales thanked the Council and Town's people for the help given to the resident of Prospect Heights after her house burned down.

Reverend Dickenson thanked everyone for their support.

Andrew Sharp, from the Star Democrat, also thanked the Town for a great Fall Festival.

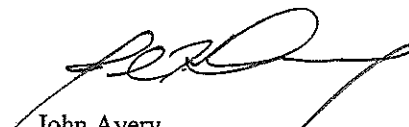
Paul Grahe asked if the Town would consider extending flags down Main Street beyond the blinking light intersection. Funds could be donated for this.

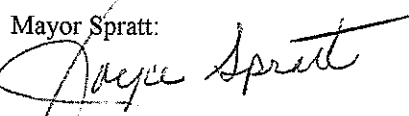
There being no further business or discussion, Councilwoman Franz made a Motion to adjourn. Councilman Cephas seconded the Motion. With all in favor and no one opposed, the Motion was passed and carried with a vote of 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

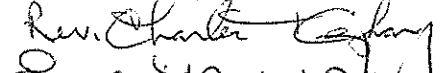
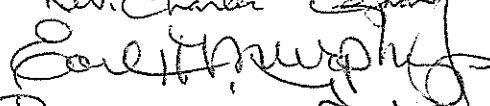

Approved:

Mayor Spratt:

  
John Avery  
Administrator  
Clerk/Treasurer

  
Joyce Spratt

Council Members:

  
Rev. Charles Taylor  
  
Eric Murphy  
  
Bonnie May